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LB 925

discussion because it would only consume time for no purpose. I'm not trying to defeat the bill by taking a lot of time. I'm not going to try to tell other people how to vote. I'm just pointing out what my position is at this point. I will listen. And Senator Tyson gave me a quote that some writer a long time ago wrote, death plucks my ear and whispers, live for I am coming.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Try to make an application of that; and if you try real hard, you'll see what it is that I'm saying.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Landis, on the Raikes amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, let me tell you two things about the Raikes amendment which, by the way, if it was a separate bill and it came before the Revenue Committee, I might have voted for it in its context, but I got to tell you, I like LB 925 better. I think there are two essential problems in the child-care field. Quality is one, and let me just say that that's a place where we agree. I think it's a place that Senator Suttle has reminded us, Senator Brown has reminded us, Senator Kiel would remind us of that fact. Quality is a problem. Senator Stuhr would remind us. The existence of quality childcare is a problem and that deserves attention. By the way, there is some attention given to it in this bill. There's a second problem and that is capacity itself, the number of slots. We have about 6,700 kids on waiting lists looking for childcare, as our two-income families or our single-parent homes demand the existence of childcare, and the absence of it makes them accept substandard care that exists. Expand capacity and it will help you solve quality problems as well. Secondly, Senator Raikes, I'm told that the situation is this. If you were to start today as an employer to provide this, you would have to wait 12 months, as a minimum, to make the application to become qualified. Once you make the application after 12 months of being a licensed care facility, at the earliest it's another 18 months, which means that you run someplace between 2.5 or 3 years in which you wouldn't get any assistance in hopes that you had met the quality standard. I